

REVIEWS OF BOOKS.

MANUAL OF OPERATIVE SURGERY. By H. J. WARING, M.S., B.Sc., F.R.C.S. Edinburgh and London: Young J. Pentland; New York: The Macmillan Company, 1898.

ATLAS AND EPITOME OF OPERATIVE SURGERY. By DR. OTTO ZUCKERKANDL, Privat-Docent in the University of Vienna. Authorized translation from the German. Edited by J. Chalmers Da Costa, M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1898.

These books are intended to give the student an idea of the technique of the various operations in surgery. They are used to supplement the studies of operative surgery upon the cadaver; but may be turned to more practical account by the general practitioner, who would refreshen his memory, when about to perform an operation. They both well fulfil the purpose for which they are intended.

The English work takes up the various operations, and under each one gives the indications for its performance, the selection of instruments, the position of the patient, operator, and assistants, the technique of the operation, and the after-treatment. The preliminary preparation of the patient for anæsthesia and for asepsis is also considered. In the preparation for anæsthesia the author says that no food should be given by mouth for three or four hours before the operation. A patient who eats a meal three or four hours before operation, we believe, will, in a large proportion of cases, still have undigested food in the stomach at the time of anæsthetization. "Proper observance of these precautions," the author says, "tends to avoid vomiting." The author, we presume, means "tends to prevent vomiting."

Mr. Waring makes the median abdominal incision through the linea alba, because, he says, the risk of the occurrence of ventral hernia at a later period is minimized by such an incision, whereas, for several years past, many surgeons have avoided the linea alba, and made their opening into the abdomen, through the muscle, just to one side of the white line for this very reason. In the description of the operation of suprapubic cystotomy, distention of the bladder with air is not mentioned. The obsolete method of extraperitoneal treatment of the stump in abdominal hysterectomy is described. We infer that the author of the description of vaginal hysterectomy does not frequently perform the operation. With the patient in the dorsal position, he first makes the upper incision; and then, with the blood running down over his field of operation, incises the posterior fornix. In describing the operation for strangulated inguinal hernia, it is advised to cut the ring, then, if the intestine is found to be non-gangrenous, it is gently manipulated back into the abdominal cavity. Then immediately follows this terrible advice, "It should be drawn downward, unravelled, and then transfixed in several places, tied in sections, and the distal portion removed." This sounds as though it were meant for the omentum, but nothing of the omentum appears in the context.

In brief, we may say that the operations are usually clearly and well described. The illustrations are fair. The book is well printed and well bound.

The work of Dr. Zuckerkandl is upon much the same lines as the English work. The translation is well done. One of its most attractive features are the illustrations. It contains 217 cuts and twenty-four colored plates. These plates are models of beauty and accuracy, and add greatly to the value of the book. The illustrations, as a whole, are very superior to those in the other work. The trocar and cannula represented for suprapubic aspiration are unnecessarily big for that purpose. The illustration of the suprapubic cystotomy wound is defective in that the wound is made to involve the pubic hair. The operations are

well described. This is a particularly good book, and, like the English work, will be found an excellent guide in instructing in operative surgery.

JAMES P. WARBASSE.

A MANUAL OF MODERN SURGERY, General and Operative. By JOHN CHALMERS DA COSTA, M.D. Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 1898.

This is the second edition of this work, the first of which appeared four years ago. The author states in his preface that the aim of the work has been to present in clear terms and in concise form the fundamental principles, the chief operations, and the accepted methods of modern surgery. The author's aim has also been to exclude obsolete and unessential methods, and to make no attempt to exploit unprovable hypotheses or to champion fanciful theories. However well he may have succeeded in these high aims, his earnestness of purpose is most commendable.

The work opens with a brief chapter upon bacteriology. The chapter on inflammations is characterized by the comparatively large amount of space devoted to the therapeutics of inflammation. The student of surgery will get a very erroneous impression of the importance of constitutional measures in the treatment of this class of cases. The fever which follows wounds or operations, the author designates as traumatic fevers; and these he divides into two classes, benign and malignant. The paragraph on the treatment of œdema opens with the recommendation that œdema be relieved by multiple punctures: compression is referred to later. The author is convinced of certain dangers in using hydrogen peroxide, for in two places in the book he relates the same instance of how a child narrowly escaped death from this agent.

The prophylactic treatment recommended for tetanus is radical. "Every punctured wound is to be incised to its depth